

# Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Minutes, October 15, 2002

Lussier Family Heritage Center  
3101 Lake Farm Road  
Madison, WI

In attendance were 19 people

The **voting** members were: Jeff Edgar, David Liska, Bruce Allison, Linda Barcz, Roald Evensen, Wayne Glowac, Jeff Gorman, Kevin Hinkley, Heather Mann, Daniel Traas, Richard Welch

The **ex-officio, non-voting** members were: Lisa Burban, Leif Hubbard, Bria Radtke, and Dick Rideout

The **non-voting guests** in attendance were: Felipe Avila, Mark Guthmiller, Fred Paasch, and Joe Wilson

**Absent** voting members: Mark Dochnahl, Christine Giese, Laura Jull, Ken Keeley, Greg Lancaster, Mike Maddox, Ken Ottman, Bob Skiera, Joan Stevens.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Dave Liska, the Council Vice Chair. The minutes from the July 10, 2002 Urban Forestry Council meeting were reviewed. Approval of the July 10<sup>th</sup> minutes was moved and seconded. The motion was passed.
2. Dick Rideout reviewed the Council's budget expenditures through the first quarter of the 2003 fiscal year. It was suggested to increase the budget for meeting expenses due to increased travel distances and cost borne by members. Heather Mann moved and Dick Welch seconded that the financial report be approved. The motion passed.
3. The gavel was passed to Jeff Edgar who was delayed by traffic coming into Madison. With two new members of the Council present and several guests, a few minutes were spent making introductions.
4. Ken Ottman was not at the meeting because he had to attend to personal matters, so Dick Rideout updated the Council on the Governors Council on Forestry. Ken has not been officially appointed to the Governors Council, but as far as the DNR is concerned Ken will be the Urban Forestry representative to the Governors Council. The appointment just needs to be approved. The Governor must appoint a forestry council but all members serve at the pleasure of the Governor. With the up coming elections it is possible for a new Governor to change the entire membership of his forestry council. This is unlikely however and the DNR is not waiting until after the election to submit Ken's name for membership to the Governors Council. In response to a question Dick Rideout stated that the minutes from past Governors Council meetings are printed but are not available on any website.

In other membership committee activities, the formal nomination papers for Dick Welch and Jeff Gorman have been submitted and will be mailed out shortly. Kevin Hinkley has had several conversations with Joe Wilson of Greening Milwaukee, and Joe has agreed to join the Urban Forestry Council as an at large member. It is the membership committee's recommendation that Joe Wilson be appointed to the Council. Bruce Allison moved and Heather Mann seconded that Joe be appointed to the Council. The motion passed.

5. Mark Guthmiller next gave a presentation on insects that are damaging the urban forest in Wisconsin, the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, and the Gypsy Moth. The Morton Arboretum has a CD on the longhorned beetle and if anyone is interested in seeing it they should contact Lisa Burban. On the pest alert that Mark passed out on the ash borer, a correction is needed, the size of the insect is 26-32 mm.
6. Fred Paasch, and Mark Guthmiller then gave a presentation on the Millennium Grove, and led a brief tour of the nursery for the trees that will be a part of the Grove. The presentation showed possible designs for the grove as drawn by students in a landscape architecture class at the UW-Madison. It also showed the work done by a school group to get the grove started. The trees in the nursery showed some damage from deer browsing but otherwise looked to be in good condition. The plan is to wait another year or two for the trees to mature a bit, and then transplant them to create the grove. As far as the Legislative Grove is concerned little progress has been made since campaign season for the fall elections is in full swing.
7. Wayne Glowac led a discussion on the Urban Forestry rest areas at the Madison Area's Home Builders show. During the spring home builders show the builders association donates eight booths in order to create two rest areas with information about urban forestry and building with trees. The Bruce Company provides a great deal of help and the rest areas have been very successful. Wayne wanted to let the Council know ahead of time that volunteers will be needed to help set up and take down the displays and to maintain the booths at the show. Maintaining the booths is simply making sure that informational handouts are stocked. The Dane County Tree Board is interested in joining the Council as a sponsor of the rest areas. With their help Council members from outside the Madison area would not need to travel to help with set up and maintenance. The Council would still be the main contact for planning and other details. The Tree Board is also willing to have one of their members, staff a rest area to answer questions. The main message that the booths are trying to get across is the do's and don'ts for building with trees. The dates for the Home Builders show in 2003 are March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, with the set up for the rest areas starting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Dave Liska moved that the Council partner with Dane County tree board for the 2003 Home Builders show on the building with trees rest area. The partnership will be reviewed afterward with the possibility of extension of the partnership in to the next few years. Dan Trass seconded the motion and it was approved.

Wayne also sought input from the Council on sources of grant funding for an Urban Forestry video/DVD that the Dane County tree board is producing. The video is aimed at 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children and would be distributed to teachers nationwide. The 20 minute video would explain the importance of trees, how to care for them, and why we should care about them. In addition a short worksheet would be provided to reinforce the message. The Council provided Wayne with a number of suggestions.

The Council then broke for lunch.

8. The next topic for discussion was the Tree City USA banquet. Times and subjects need to be decided for the workshop portion of the banquet. The amount of time for the workshops is tentatively set for an hour and a half. The possible subjects are municipal partnerships with utilities (MG&E is the contact for the speaker). Smart growth (possible speaker is Greg Kessler of the City of New Berlin). Partnership between communities (using the example of Green Bay and Appleton in dealing with storm damage last year in Appleton). And finally, Communities with funding success (using the City of Superior and Murphy Oil partnership as an example).

The speaker for the banquet will be Tim Womeck. The only matter to be decided is if he will come to the banquet through the Tree Trust or as an independent speaker. If Tim comes through the Tree Trust the cost will be less, but either way he is booked to speak on that day for us. Larry Mueller will be the M.C. for the evening.

Mike Maddox has volunteered to take care of the invitation and registration for the banquet. This was the last major task to be delegated, there are still a few minor tasks to be dealt with and assignments will be determined as needed.

Since there will be more downtime between workshops and photos due to the increase in the number of Tree Cities, there will be some displays in the hall ways for guests to look at. The number of displays will depend on the amount of space we reserve, and the displays need to have minimal jargon because the audience will be mayors and city tree boards not foresters. Suggestions for displays included the Urban Open Space Foundation, the Dane County tree board, the Wisconsin Builders Association, the Wisconsin Arborists Association, the Landscape Federation, and the DNR (gypsy moth display). Dan Trass volunteered to organize the ideas and contact organizations about setting up displays at the banquet.

Overall things are coming together well. In order to make things easier the next time around it was decided to put together a handbook on what was done and it was done to host the banquet. The chairs of the various sub-committees should keep notes, and any information that may be helpful for inclusion in the handbook. These will be come the “chapters” in the banquet handbook. Kevin Hinkley has a template that can be used to organize and analyze what each of the sub-committees did in a straightforward manner. Kevin will be sending out the template to the members of the Council.

It was decided to have the heads of the sub-committees meet on February 18, 2003, the afternoon before the next Council meeting, to go over any last minute details. The sub-committees are meeting in order to work out a list of tasks that need to be finished before the banquet and things that need to be done the day of the banquet.

9. Dick Rideout reviewed the activities of the DNR. The Division of Forestry has been given permission to fill the Southeast Regional Urban Forester position. A profile of the position description needs to be created and the DNR would like to have this position filled as soon as possible. There are union rules that need to be followed to fill the position and there may be a need for a review committee to look at applicants. The goal is to have someone in the position in about six months.

The draft of the five year strategic plan is ready for review. The 47 recommendations from the Council are included in the plan. The Regional Urban Foresters have added some detail to the outlines and Dick would like to have comments from the Council on the plan by November 5<sup>th</sup>.

There have been some problems with the data collection on the Urban Forest health plot. The contractors have made mistakes with the data collection and the USFS did not audit the plots until the collection was more than 60% complete. The contractors have promised to correct the work, but this means that the data and any analysis will not be available until next year.

Because of the lower number of communities and organizations applying for the 2003 Urban Forestry Grants, all the applicants will get a grant provided they meet the criteria for the grant.

10. The program is set for the WAA/UFC annual conference being held in Green Bay on January 26, 2003. The Council workshop schedule is set and this year's topic is "Procuring Trees". Don ? Dan? is moderating the workshop. The Council needs nominations for the Urban Forestry awards to be presented at the conference. The nominations should be sent to Kevin Hinkley and need to get in by mid November. There are three categories for the awards: Project Partnership, Long term Partnership, and Distinguished Service.

11. Lisa Burbank then reviewed the activities of the US Forest Service nationally, in the Midwest and special projects. Nationally because of the massive wildfires out west all travel and programs were suspended, which explains why the UF health monitoring project was audited late. Wisconsin will not be harmed as much as other states with the program suspensions because it is relatively well funded on the state level. There will also soon be a new national Urban Forestry Coordinator.

In the Midwest the Urban Forestry Council heads from the Midwest states met. A midwest Urban Forestry Coordinator position is close to being filled. The new hire will have a technology transfer emphasis in Urban Forestry. The emerald ash borer outbreak in Detroit is devastating the ash population. This bug is very bad news please try to keep an eye out for it. Extensive efforts and a quarantine in Detroit and surrounding communities will try to minimize the spread, but it is important for us to keep on the lookout.

A project recently completed on diversity and reaching out to under represented groups has some very interesting results and when the study is published copies will be made available to the Council.

Lisa also reported on information shared during presentations at the National Arbor Day Foundation's "Community Forestry at it's Best" conference on planting trees under utility lines larger trees standing under utility lines. Not everyone agrees that only small statured trees should be planted under utility wires. In some cases, people are trying to keep larger trees standing under utility lines. Well maintained larger trees are not as damaging to the lines due to proper trimming of the trees. Further the larger trees under utility lines have gone a long way in reducing the visual impact of utility lines in wooded areas and along roadways.

12. Under new business, the revised copy of the Forest Where We Live is out and available. To obtain additional copies contact your regional urban forester or Felipe Avila.
13. **The next meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003** in the Madison area. The heads of the sub-committees for the Tree City USA banquet will meet on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup> in order to hash out any last minute details for the banquet.
14. Roald Evensen moved and Linda Barcz seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed and the meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.